

Hamish Thomson

From: Jake Arnold <JakeArnold@windstream.net>
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2016 2:30 PM
To: Hamish Thomson
Subject: RGS on ex-NNMC HR Director Bernie Padilla

Hamish--

FYI. Story contains some factual errors on part of both writer and quoted sources. Note the crossover connection between county government (the effective operator of the North Central Authority) and NNMC.

Same edition of the RGS has another story re: NNMC and the Office of the State Auditor. That story not online, but you get a hard copy of this edition of the RGS. The writer of the audit story is in way over his head—cannot explain to readers the meaning/significance of the audit findings that he includes in his account (just parrots the report's Wall St./account terminology), specifically in regard to the NNMC Foundation.

--Jake

Rio Grande Sun—2/25/16

Trash Authority Hires Ex-Director



(SUNfoto by Barron Jones) Former Northern New Mexico College associate vice president and Human Resources director Bernie Padilla (right) sits with Rio Arriba County Manager Tomas Campos at the Feb. 18 North Central Solid Waste Authority Board meeting.

Bernie Padilla lands unadvertised job, gets pay boost

By Barron Jones
SUN Staff Writer

North Central Solid Waste Authority officials gave an unadvertised job to a former high-ranking Northern New Mexico College administrator, who quit after College officials launched an investigation into his workplace behavior.

The Authority's Board of Directors approved an increase for the Human Resources supervisor position, Feb. 17, so former College associate vice president of Finance and Human Resources director Bernie Padilla won't get lured away by competitors.

Padilla, who was classified as a laborer for payroll purposes, earned \$13 per hour when he started with the Authority as a consultant five weeks ago. He will now earn \$62,000 per year.

Authority Manager Gino Romero said during his first week with the authority, Padilla did whatever was necessary to help move the authority forward, including repairing time clocks.

During his tenure at the College, Padilla often found himself at the center of controversy, including being named in a Whistleblower's lawsuit filed in state district court in August 2014. That case is slated to go to trial in July.

He was also accused of assaulting one of the College's former professors during a Feb. 18, 2014 meeting, but that case was never prosecuted.

Authority Manager Gino Romero said regardless of the accusations hurled at Padilla over the years, or the circumstances surrounding his departure from Northern, he supports hiring him for the unadvertised position.

The position wasn't advertised since it was to be a temporary consulting position. Padilla has exhibited nothing but the qualifications needed to help manage the Authority.

"Padilla wasn't charged with anything," he said. "We go on what takes place in this office. He is a valuable resource and I am happy to have him."

Romero told the Board increasing the pay by \$8,000 more than former supervisor Sally Baxter made before she left for a job with the city, is essential to attracting qualified candidates.

"The HR position we had when Ms. Baxter left was \$54,000," Romero said. "She left and went to the city and is making \$72,000. Finding a qualified HR person has been really tough with what we were paying. Finding a person who does local HR or for Los Alamos is very different than what we utilize here, so it was pretty tough to find an HR person. Mr. Bernie Padilla is taking over our HR temporary, and I would like to ask the Board to increase the pay from \$54,000 to \$62,000."

He said the budget can handle Padilla's salary because several positions have gone unfilled, which has created a surplus.

A December 2014 Authority salary list placed Baxter's pay at \$24.27 per hour, or \$50,481, when annualized.

Romero said he brought Padilla on as an unadvertised consultant to help train Baxter's replacement, Eric Martinez. Martinez earned \$22 per hour, or slightly more than \$45,000, during his brief stint as the Authority's HR supervisor.

Romero hired Martinez to replace Baxter after a three-month search, when she left in May 2015 to take over the city's open Human Resources director position.

Martinez was the Authority's third choice, but the first two choices declined the job offer because the salary was too low, Romero said.

The position stayed open from the time Baxter left in May, until Martinez was hired on Aug. 24, 2015. He worked for a bit more than five months before he lost his job to the man hired to train him.

Romero told the Board in the short time Padilla's been with the Authority, he has corrected a couple of major mistakes, despite the displeasure of employees, which could have created some future headaches for the organization.

"Mr. Padilla came from DOT (Department of Transportation) HR, he's got experience with Los Alamos and that is what we really want to cultivate," he said. "(We need) Good, qualified people who know how to fix things. Mr. Padilla has been here a short time and he has found quite a few errors."

Padilla said shortly after taking over the "HR shop," he pored over the payroll accounts and learned important deductions weren't being taken out of the pay of several of the Authority's new hires. He also discovered some instances where the Authority was either paying too much or too little into employee retirement accounts.

"Some employees were having PERA deducted and some have been there going on six or five months," he said. "We have what I believe is overpayment in benefits in some areas and underpayment in others."

Padilla told Board members that the poor record-keeping has resulted in some employees having to pay back money that wasn't properly deducted from their pay for retirement benefits. He also ran into situations where employees were charged for the Authority's medical insurance plan, but never signed up."

"I have two employees who were paying for insurance but weren't covered because they were never enrolled," he said. "These are just errors we are uncovering. The good thing is, we are aware of it and the worst thing to do would be ignore it. The sad news is, we have some employees who owe \$1,000 and for somebody making \$12 an hour, that is a nightmare."

Although most of the errors surfaced during Martinez's brief tenure, some were left over from when Baxter ran the department. Romero said that is when the errant insurance deductions originated.

Padilla will oversee the Authority's approximately 43 employees and will earn several thousand dollars more than the County's Human Resource Director Annabelle Almager. She earns \$56,000, and along with her staff of two, oversees about 205 employees. That is 162 more than Padilla's caseload.

Previous employment

When Romero introduced Padilla as the new HR supervisor, he failed to mention his most recent position at Northern New Mexico College, where he earned more than 50 percent of what he is scheduled to make working at the Authority. Padilla earned \$96,000 while at the College, which is about \$34,000 more than the \$62,000 annual salary he is slated to earn at the Authority.

Padilla worked at the College for a little more than three years. He started in August 2012, at a salary of \$89,000. From the date he started until the day he was escorted off the College's campus with a written warning not to interfere in the investigation, Padilla received an 8.5 percent raise. When he parted ways with the College, he was earning \$96,606.

Padilla has worked for state government for the better part of 23 years, which means he needs to work a few more years before he can retire.

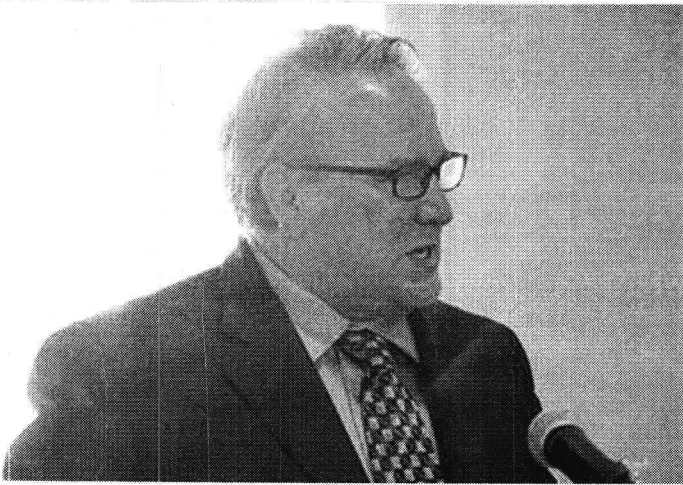
Repeated attempts to reach Padilla were unsuccessful.

Jake Arnold

From: Jake Arnold [JakeArnold@windstream.net]
Sent: Thursday, December 24, 2015 4:05 PM
To: Jake Arnold
Subject: RGS on Alex & Dormitories at Northern

Rio Grande Sun—12/24/15

Officials Hope for Housing Help



(SUNfoto by Barron Jones) County Economic Development Director Christopher Madrid explains the importance of establishing an affordable housing ordinance at an April County Commission meeting. He said the ordinance will set the foundation for state and federal funds that could be used to develop low-cost housing.

By Barron Jones
SUN Staff Writer

Rio Arriba County leaders are in the process of issuing Requests for Proposals they hope will attract an outside organization for a public/private partnership that would expand the area's low-cost housing options.

Commissioners gave County Health and Human Services Director Lauren Reichelt and Grants and Contracts Administrator Jon Paul Romero, at the Nov. 19 Commission meeting, permission to solicit bids for a project that would bring a low- to moderate-income, multi-family housing development to the area.

The preferred candidate would be responsible for planning, developing and managing whatever project originates through the partnership.

After the developing organization is selected, they will work with County leaders to establish a set of deliverables that will take into consideration the County's objectives. Those objectives would not only include affordable housing, it would have provisions to help those trying to get their lives back on track.

"It is a multi-family housing like the ones I took you to visit in Santa Fe," Reichelt said in response to a question from Commissioner Alex Naranjo, who wanted to know if the project would be geared toward the homeless. "We visited Village Sage and Stage Coach, these are beautiful facilities, all green-built with different programs on the premises."

She said like those Santa Fe facilities, she would like the proposed project to have a range of housing options for those most in need, to those who can afford to pay fair market value.

But one thing is for certain, the project they hope to build wouldn't resemble many of the older low-cost housing models.

"It is multi-level income," Reichelt said. "It is not taking a bunch of poor people who have very severe problems and putting them together in one place with no help."

The project has yet to enter the concept stages, which means a site has not been chosen, but wherever it is, it would have to be in the Española area to comply with funding guidelines.

The funding would come from various sources that include a combination of grants and loans that the County is eligible to receive after passing an ordinance designed to address the housing shortfall.

Commissioners voted unanimously to approve the Affordable Housing Ordinance ordinance, Aug. 27.

Passage of the law sets the foundation for the state to receive federal funds to meet the region's housing needs.

County Economic Development Director Christopher Madrid said the ordinance was a long time coming and is evidence of management's efforts to ensure Rio Arribans aren't overlooked when it comes to federal support.

Now that commissioners accepted the ordinance, County leaders will be in a position to get up to 75 percent of any affordable housing project subsidized.

"So, if you have a \$20 million project, there is \$14 million in federal subsidies to do the deal," Madrid said. "The other \$6 million would come from the private sector, but we would be able to use that subsidy to put affordable housing in place."

Madrid said the ordinance will also help the County work in conjunction with existing laws that must be considered before exploring low-cost housing development options.

"As you all know, we have the Anti-Donation Clause that says we can't support private individuals unless there is an exemption," he said. "We help out the indigent because health care gets an exemption. There is also an exemption for economic development, but unlike economic development you can't do affordable housing unless you put in the right ordinance."

Reichelt said expanding the area's low- to moderate-cost housing would have a positive impact on many of the area's institutions.

"We really lack capacity for rental units and purchases of homes that are habitable, for people who are either low income or middle class and it is holding us back in many ways," she said. "It is holding us back in our schools because we have teachers who can't find homes here and it makes it hard to find police and fire personnel and anybody who is part of the middle class, that is so crushed right now."

Naranjo expressed hopes that once the project gains traction, it could be used to help bolster declining enrollment at Northern New Mexico College.

He said the project could help provide some of the affordable housing needed to attract new students to the area.

"In my estimation, we should have 4,000 students there (at Northern New Mexico College) and we only have 800," he said. "Talking to people there, they say we don't have any kind of housing. We don't have dorms, so to me, we need to make that college successful and we need to concentrate on housing."

Jake Arnold

From: Jake Arnold [JakeArnold@windstream.net]
Sent: Tuesday, December 29, 2015 8:58 AM
To: Jake Arnold
Subject: RGS Reader Comment re: RAC Housing Proposal

Rio Grande Sun (as of 12/29/15)—Online Reader Comments re: RAC Housing Story of 12/24/15

Reader Comments

The following are comments from the readers. In no way do they represent the view of riograndesun.com.

Gian Travers wrote on Dec 24, 2015 4:00 PM:

"Wake up and smell the coffee, Alex.

Northern already has substantial dormitory rooms in El Rito—but they shut down that campus even though it is the legal seat of the school according to state law.

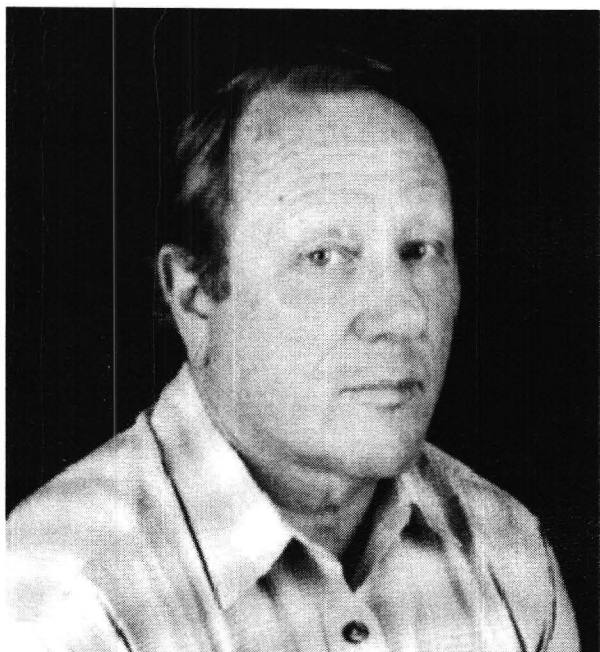
The problem with declining (heading towards zero) enrollment at Northern has nothing to do with housing—it all has to do with the policies promoted by your bosom buddies, board of regents headwoman Chayo Garcia and disgraced ex-regent Michael Branch, as well as and corrupt administrators the board finally had no choice but to fire: Rusty Barcelo, Ricky Serna and Bernie Padilla.

Just look at the success of another local school with no dormitories (and no low-cost housing nearby): Santa Fe Community College.

Alex, stop talking/listening to those fools still in charge at what's left of Northern. No one in this community, who knows anything about Northern, trusts them and neither should you.

BTW, Alex, why are you also letting Lauren and Jon Paul lead you around like an old bull with a ring through his nose? "

Reader View: The downfall of Northern New Mexico College



By Terence Boyle SantaFeNewMexican.com

The current administration of Northern New Mexico College has reached its limit and exhausted its options to preserve the school as an institution fitting the mold of a multiple degree-granting institution. The future of the institution is in doubt.

College President Dr. Nancy Barceló — who just announced she will leave her post at the end of the year — and her minions deserve blame for the parade of mismanagement. Bad decisions include the initiation and abandonment of programs in environmental sciences, institution of the now-gone Innovation Center, building a \$15 million dormitory at an institution largely attended by local students; and establishing an intercollegiate sports program that includes men's and women's basketball teams that have traveled as far west as Hawaii and as far east as Virginia, funded at the expense of other programs.

Perhaps the most damaging of all the impacts at the college is the loss of faculty. During the 2012-13 academic year, some 25 percent of the full-time faculty were either fired or resigned, including tenured, tenure track and program directors. Since then, even more have resigned.

In spite of President Barceló's assurance three years ago that El Rito programs would not close "on her watch," the El Rito campus has been abandoned. When I arrived in El Rito nine years ago, the El Rito campus bustled with students.

There were programs in carpentry, electrical, automotive, weaving, meat cutting, the manufacture of Spanish colonial furniture, cosmetology, an internationally recognized program in adobe construction, Spanish, as well as classes in wildland firefighting taught by members of the U.S. Forest Service. A number of nationally ranked universities, including Princeton, the University of North Carolina, the University of Texas at El Paso and Southern Illinois University used the El Rito campus as a base for summer geological field courses.

This is all, all gone. None of these programs, affiliations or scheduled classes is left. None. Except for security personnel, no one uses this campus. The buildings are not maintained and falling into ruin.

However, wider accountability for this catastrophe includes the college Board of Regents appointed by two New Mexico governors (one Democrat, one Republican). All share the responsibility. The situation is so devastating that an earlier attempt by the college administration to rename the college a "university" might be laughable if it weren't such a disaster.

At this juncture, I believe the future of NNMC, and fate of the Española and El Rito campuses, are questionable. Putting these decisions into the hands of the same gang is not a smart thing to do. The future of NNMC should be contemplated and recommended by a new panel appointed by state Secretary of Higher Education Barbara Damron.

This "blue ribbon" panel must comprise members experienced in funding and financial aspects of higher education and curriculum development. They should create a clear mission statement on how the college will serve the educational needs of Northern New Mexico. In short, the committee members should have relevant credentials and some intelligence.

The range of possibilities for the school's future that should be considered include: reinstatement of programs in technical vocational careers; identification of what academic programs are sustainable; determining the role of continuing education programs in the curriculum; resurrecting the now empty El Rito campus; and re-establishing Northern as a community college with defined associate of arts degrees as well as providing students with a solid preparation to enter four-year universities.

With Barceló leaving, it's the perfect time to reconsider Northern New Mexico College's future.

Dr. Terence Boyle has been on the research staff of several federal agencies, done management-related research at a number of U.S. national parks, and was on the faculty of Colorado State University. He resides in El Rito.

Hamish Thomson

From: Jake Arnold <JakeArnold@windstream.net>
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2016 11:17 AM
To: Hamish Thomson
Subject: Jon Paul Romero at NNMC/Jon Paul Romero "Engineer"

Hamish—

Art the link copied below, you will find some resume material for Jon Paul Romero—this data comes directly from him.

At that site, scroll down to the "Southwest Designs, LLC // Jan '07 Sep '13" (his company) listing under "Work Experience. Then click on "... More" to see the blurb in which he identifies all the work he did for NNMC among other projects he/his company handled.

This resume-listing site is only current through 2013. JPR still owns/operates this company (corporation listings at the NM Secretary of State site provides more info in this regard). JPR's current work for Rio Arriba County may actually be via this company (professional services contract) as opposed to JPR being an actual employee.

Copied further below is a story from the Santa Fe New Mexican (2010) re: JPR's status as an "engineer."

A link to the minutes of the BNM Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers re: the complaint mentioned in the New Mexican story is copied below the story.

A Goggle search will reveal several newspaper accounts of JPR's relationship with former (resigned/convicted) PRC member Jerome Block Jr. and JPR's involvement with Advantage Asphalt.

--Jake

<http://www.beyond.com/JonpaulRomero> (JPR resume site)

Santa Fe New Mexican—4/26/10

Commish candidate blasted for engineer contracts

State board says Jon Paul Romero lacks license to provide engineering services

Phaedra Haywood/The New Mexican The Santa Fe New Mexican

A state licensing board sent County Commission candidate Jon Paul Romero a letter last week ordering him to "cease and desist from any and all engineering activities."

The reprimand was the result of a complaint County Surveyor Jeffery Ludwig filed against Romero with the New Mexico Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Surveyors in March 2009.

Ludwig said Monday that while reviewing some survey and engineering documents on a job Romero was hired to do for the county, he found several "discrepancies and deficiencies." One was the fact that Romero had signed a contract — in which his company, SouthWest Design and Drafting Service, was referred to repeatedly as "ENGINEER" — agreeing to provide engineering services, when in fact, Romero is not a licensed engineer.

Romero has a bachelor's of science degree in civil engineering from The University of New Mexico, but he has never been licensed to work as an engineer. Like attorneys, professionals who obtain engineering degrees must be licensed by the state in which they wish to practice before they can work as engineers.

"It's an exam you have to pass," Romero said. "I've taken the test but I have not passed the examination. ... the stuff I do, typically you don't have to be an engineer to do it." He said he's taken the exam "three or four times."

Romero said his business provides mostly design, project management and construction-management services.

He said he does take jobs that require some engineering work — and he subcontracts that work out to a licensed engineer, which is allowed by law.

Romero said that's what happened on the project that Ludwig complained about, in which Romero's firm was paid \$19,200 to provide "engineering design and construction monitoring services" for a 700-foot sewer line along Agua Fría Street.

Ludwig said he told County Manager Roman Abeyta that Romero was not a licensed engineer. "They ignored me, so I filed a complaint," Ludwig said.

Abeyta stated in a letter to the licensing board that the county knew Romero was not licensed, and Romero had not claimed to be.

According to documents obtained from the Board of Licensure, "sufficient information exists to believe that (Romero) may have acted contrary to the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act," in signing the contract with Santa Fe County agreeing to provide engineering services.

The "cease and desist" letter was the result of a negotiated settlement agreement in this case, according to the board's Executive Director Edward Ytuarte, who signed the cover letter that was sent to Romero on April 22 with the "cease and desist" notice.

Ytuarte (whose brother David Ytuarte is Romero's campaign treasurer), was the investigator in another case that involved similar allegations against Romero in 2005.

In that case, the complainant — the New Mexico Environment Department — alleged Robert E. Bookwalter (who was a licensed engineer) submitted faulty plans for a water-tank project Romero had contracted to perform for the state.

Bookwalter was fined \$2,000 in that case after he testified that Romero had asked him to act as the licensed engineer on the project only after the complaint was filed, which prompted board member Patricio Guerrero-Ortiz to file a separate complaint against Romero. The board found enough evidence in that case to refer the case to the Attorney General's Office in February 2007 for further action, Ytuarte said.

The Attorney General's Office replied that the two-year statute of limitations for pursuing the complaint had expired.

Ytuarte said several things led to the delay — one being confusion among licensing board staff about the date the two-year time limit began.

Ytuarte said the case was also tabled for lack of a quorum several times because board member Guerrero-Ortiz, having filed the complaint, had to recuse himself from voting. The board has 10 members.

Romero has referred to himself as an engineer while campaigning to replace term-limited Commissioner Harry Montoya in the Democratic primary for the District 1 seat. The primary election is June 1.

Romero said Monday that he doesn't believe he's misleading constituents.

"I'm very careful that I don't say I'm a licensed engineer," Romero said. "I have an engineering degree, so that makes me an engineer. ... I understand what it means to be a registered engineer, and I have never conveyed myself as a registered engineer."

Contact Phaedra Haywood at 986-3068 or phaywood@sfnewmexican.com.

<http://www.sblpes.state.nm.us/docs/minutes/2010Jan21-PECMinutes.pdf>



Jobs

Job Title or Keywords



Join Now

Sign In

Hiring?

Home

Portfolio

Jobs

Connections

Interests

Career Resources

View

Infographic

Text

Download

Connect

Message

Forward

Print

Jon Paul Romero

Santa Fe, NM 87506

Job Function Construction & Extraction,
Engineering & Architecture

Career Summary

To obtain a position in upper management that will best utilize my knowledge, skills and abilities to meet the goals, vision and mission of the organization.

Work Experience

Board Member | Pojoaque Valley School District

19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100 101 102 103 104 105 106 107 108 109 110 111 112 113 114 115 116 117 118 119 120 121 122 123 124 125 126 127 128 129 130 131 132 133 134 135 136 137 138 139 140 141 142 143 144 145 146 147 148 149 150 151 152 153 154 155 156 157 158 159 160 161 162 163 164 165 166 167 168 169 170 171 172 173 174 175 176 177 178 179 180 181 182 183 184 185 186 187 188 189 190 191 192 193 194 195 196 197 198 199 200 201 202 203 204 205 206 207 208 209 210 211 212 213 214 215 216 217 218 219 220 221 222 223 224 225 226 227 228 229 230 231 232 233 234 235 236 237 238 239 240 241 242 243 244 245 246 247 248 249 250 251 252 253 254 255 256 257 258 259 260 261 262 263 264 265 266 267 268 269 270 271 272 273 274 275 276 277 278 279 280 281 282 283 284 285 286 287 288 289 290 291 292 293 294 295 296 297 298 299 300 301 302 303 304 305 306 307 308 309 310 311 312 313 314 315 316 317 318 319 320 321 322 323 324 325 326 327 328 329 330 331 332 333 334 335 336 337 338 339 340 341 342 343 344 345 346 347 348 349 350 351 352 353 354 355 356 357 358 359 360 361 362 363 364 365 366 367 368 369 370 371 372 373 374 375 376 377 378 379 380 381 382 383 384 385 386 387 388 389 390 391 392 393 394 395 396 397 398 399 400 401 402 403 404 405 406 407 408 409 410 411 412 413 414 415 416 417 418 419 420 421 422 423 424 425 426 427 428 429 430 431 432 433 434 435 436 437 438 439 440 441 442 443 444 445 446 447 448 449 450 451 452 453 454 455 456 457 458 459 460 461 462 463 464 465 466 467 468 469 470 471 472 473 474 475 476 477 478 479 480 481 482 483 484 485 486 487 488 489 490 491 492 493 494 495 496 497 498 499 500 501 502 503 504 505 506 507 508 509 510 511 512 513 514 515 516 517 518 519 520 521 522 523 524 525 526 527 528 529 530 531 532 533 534 535 536 537 538 539 540 541 542 543 544 545 546 547 548 549 550 551 552 553 554 555 556 557 558 559 560 561 562 563 564 565 566 567 568 569 570 571 572 573 574 575 576 577 578 579 580 581 582 583 584 585 586 587 588 589 590 591 592 593 594 595 596 597 598 599 600 601 602 603 604 605 606 607 608 609 610 611 612 613 614 615 616 617 618 619 620 621 622 623 624 625 626 627 628 629 630 631 632 633 634 635 636 637 638 639 640 641 642 643 644 645 646 647 648 649 650 651 652 653 654 655 656 657 658 659 660 661 662 663 664 665 666 667 668 669 670 671 672 673 674 675 676 677 678 679 680 681 682 683 684 685 686 687 688 689 690 691 692 693 694 695 696 697 698 699 700 701 702 703 704 705 706 707 708 709 710 711 712 713 714 715 716 717 718 719 720 721 722 723 724 725 726 727 728 729 730 731 732 733 734 735 736 737 738 739 740 741 742 743 744 745 746 747 748 749 750 751 752 753 754 755 756 757 758 759 760 761 762 763 764 765 766 767 768 769 770 771 772 773 774 775 776 777 778 779 780 781 782 783 784 785 786 787 788 789 790 791 792 793 794 795 796 797 798 799 800 801 802 803 804 805 806 807 808 809 810 811 812 813 814 815 816 817 818 819 820 821 822 823 824 825 826 827 828 829 830 831 832 833 834 835 836 837 838 839 840 841 842 843 844 845 846 847 848 849 850 851 852 853 854 855 856 857 858 859 860 861 862 863 864 865 866 867 868 869 870 871 872 873 874 875 876 877 878 879 880 881 882 883 884 885 886 887 888 889 890 891 892 893 894 895 896 897 898 899 900 901 902 903 904 905 906 907 908 909 910 911 912 913 914 915 916 917 918 919 920 921 922 923 924 925 926 927 928 929 930 931 932 933 934 935 936 937 938 939 940 941 942 943 944 945 946 947 948 949 950 951 952 953 954 955 956 957 958 959 960 961 962 963 964 965 966 967 968 969 970 971 972 973 974 975 976 977 978 979 980 981 982 983 984 985 986 987 988 989 990 991 992 993 994 995 996 997 998 999 1000 1001 1002 1003 1004 1005 1006 1007 1008 1009 1010 1011 1012 1013 1014 1015 1016 1017 1018 1019 1020 1021 1022 1023 1024 1025 1026 1027 1028 1029 1030 1031 1032 1033 1034 1035 1036 1037 1038 1039 1040 1041 1042 1043 1044

Pojoaque Valley School District, February 2009 February 2013 Board Member Responsibilities include: As a School Board Member of the Pojoaque Valley Schools District, the board is responsible for a schools district of approximately 2100 students, staff of 250 employees and an annual budget of 30 million dollars. The Board sets policy and direction for the district; guides the districts strategic plan (mission and vision), oversees the 5 year Facility Master Plan, provide guidance on how General Obligation Bond (GO Bond, 6 million) monies will be spent by prioritizing Capital Projects. As a board member we oversee the development and preparation of the annual budget for approval by the State of New Mexico, Public Education Department.

President and General Manager | SouthWest Designs, LLC

JAN '07 - SEP '13 (6 YEARS, 8 MONTHS) | SOUTHWEST DESIGNS, LLC

SouthWest Designs, LLC, 2007- 2013 President and General Manager Responsibilities include; As general manager for Southwest Designs, I have developed relationships with various agencies, municipalities and businesses in northern New Mexico to provide opportunities and services to meet the needs of a diverse clientele, which include the following, the County of Santa Fe, City of Espanola, City of Santa Fe, Town of Chama, Nambe Pueblo, Pojoaque Pueblo, Eight Northern Indian Pueblo Council, MDWA, various Acequia Associations, New Mexico Environment Department and other private clients. The types of service provided by SouthWest Designs include; planning, design and implementation of infrastructure projects, providing project and construction management for various agencies to obtain funding, achieve approvals for entitlement, permitting, evaluation and transfer of water rights, development of RFPs, RFQs, MOUs and JPAs, bidding, construction management and oversight. Providing project and construction management support services to ensure that projects are completed on time and within the approved budget, minimizing the need for change orders by being proactive during the construction process. Familiar in working with different funding sources such as: ARRA, GRIP II, State monies and general obligation bond monies. For the last two (2) years I have been contracted to perform the project and construction management along with various facility upgrades for Northern New Mexico College, I have completed over 12 million dollars of Capital Projects which have included the construction of the new Solar Energy Research Park and Academy (SERPA - \$2.8 million), the construction on a new addition to the existing library (\$4 million), design and construction of a 28 KW Photovoltaic system which utilized ARRA funding and construction of a new educational learning center (\$4.1 million) for the college. All of these projects have required me to develop close relationships with the administrative staff along with the faculty and professors during the design and construction to maximize the utilization of the existing classroom space and to minimize disruption of the classes during construction of the project.

Vice President and Land Development Manager | Rancho Viejo de Santa Fe, Inc

JAN '03 - JAN '07 (4 YEARS) | RANCHO VIEJO DE SANTA FE, INC

Rancho Viejo de Santa Fe, Inc., 2003-2007/ Vice President and Land Development Manager Responsibilities included; Land acquisition for planned development, overseeing master planning, design and engineering of subdivision plans for purposes of achieving entitlement for master planned community (2500 residential units, commercial and industrial development), obtaining water rights and transfer of water rights for use within the development. I was responsible for all the governmental processes to obtain the necessary approvals for entitlement of projects through the various County, City and State and Federal agencies. Develop and implement the short and long range strategies for existing and future economic growth opportunities within the Santa Fe region (3 and 5 and 10 year capital improvement plan). Work with the local agencies to develop affordable housing regulations and economic development guidelines for development on existing and future projects within Santa Fe County. Responsible for management for a \$15 million dollar budget, that included overseeing fifteen (15) or more contractors with two hundred and fifty (250) employees during various phases of development within the master planned community. Also responsible for establishing all budgets, scheduling of the bidding and selection of contractors for construction of all commercial and industrial buildings and infrastructure with the master planned community. Responsible for management and operations of all residential, commercial and industrial facilities, infrastructure and the development of maintenance programs for the Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP), infrastructure (roads, water utility, sanitary sewer mains, parks, trails, landscaping and drainage facilities) and all solid waste and recycling services within the community.

Senior Project Manager / Project Engineer | Louis Berger Group

JAN '99 - JAN '03 (4 YEARS) | LOUIS BERGER GROUP

Louis Berger Group, 1999 -2003 Senior Project Manager / Project Engineer Responsibilities included; Senior Project Manager for various City, County and NMDOT projects, with technical experience in planning, agency coordination, public relations, and project management; design, development of project cost, schedules, supervised the preparation of all construction plans and contract documents for various engineering projects for submittal and bidding of the construction documents. Ensure that all projects met objectives by planning all project phases conceptual through completion. Develop project objectives, scope of work, schedules and budget needs in preparation for request of clients needs and goals.

Project Engineer | NM (PNM), Water Services Division

JAN '97 - JAN '99 (2 YEARS) | NM (PNM), WATER SERVICES DIVISION

Public Service Company of NM (PNM), Water Services Division, 1997-1999 Project Engineer Responsibilities included; The project engineer responsible for all engineering management, agency coordination, water utility management, (RFP) development and implementation, contract management, contractor/sub-contractor management, scheduling, construction management and oversight of CIP projects. Assured that professional services agreements and construction contract amounts satisfied budgets. Preparation of construction plans, specifications and estimates and bidding documents for all CIP projects. Responsible for the facilities management, infrastructure operations and maintenance programs on projects to meet project objectives. Pro-actively managed the maintenance, repair and enhancement of all water infrastructure, assets, equipment. Oversaw and monitored the direct purchase of supplies, equipment and materials to ensure quality, price competitiveness and timely deliveries.

Project Engineer | City of Santa Fe, Public Works Department

JAN '94 - JAN '97 (3 YEARS) | CITY OF SANTA FE, PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

City of Santa Fe, Public Works Department, 1994-1997 Project Engineer Responsibilities included; Project engineer in charge of the preparation of various municipal engineering projects to meet objectives by overseeing all project phases conceptual through completion. Developed project objectives, scope of work, schedules and budget needs in preparation for request for proposals (RFPs). Management that ensured that the CIP projects are completed within an approved budget, by establishing project budgets from funds allocated by the governing body. Assure that professional services agreements and construction contract amounts satisfied budgets. Worked with consultants in preparation of construction plans and bidding documents. Present project information to City Council, Public Works and Finance committees to gain approval of contracts as well as project status reports. Responsible for scheduling to ensure projects are

BEYOND

completed within the required time by assisting in developing and managing CIP schedules to monitor time and work. Coordination and scheduling of all tasks for all departments and utility companies during the construction to meet project objectives. Developed and managed all construction projects and contracts, constructed infrastructure improvements for Solid Waste Division to meet short and long term goals. Management of all construction projects and contracts, supervision in all phases of construction, including change order review, claims mitigation, claims resolution and project close out and acceptance to maintain compliance with the plans and specifications. Coordinated with State and Federal agencies to ensure compliance with all aspects of the project are being maintained.

Jobs

Job Title or Keywords

Post a Job

Sign in

Hiring?

Education

Bachelor's Degree '94 | Project Development & Construction Management

UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO

MAY '94

A BS in Civil Engineering, University of New Mexico, May 1994, with an emphasis in Project Development & Construction Management

Skills

Budget | Expert

Scheduling | Advanced

Engineer | Advanced

Project Engineer | Advanced

Construction Management | Advanced

JOB SEEKERS

Search for Jobs

View Communities

Job Seeker FAQ

BLOG: The Confident Career

EMPLOYERS

Post a Job

Search for Candidates

Employer FAQ

BLOG: Employment Metrix

ABOUT

Latest Infographics

Become an Affiliate

Advertise with Beyond

Follow us on Facebook

Follow us on Twitter

1060 First Ave, Suite 100

King of Prussia, PA 19406

610.878.2800

Contact Us

The CAREERNETWORK™

Terms of Service | Privacy Policy | Careers

Beyond.com is a Registered Trademark of Beyond.com, Inc.
Beyond.com Career Network © 2001 - 2016 Beyond.com, Inc.
Beyond.com Patented Technology v 4.0.2344.17861



 Jobs

Job Title or Keywords



Join Now

Sign In

Hiring?

Home

Portfolio

Jobs

Connections

Interests

Career Resources

View

Infographic

Text

Download

Connect

Message

Forward

Print

Jon Paul Romero

Santa Fe, NM 87506

Job FunctionConstruction & Extraction, Engineering & Architecture

Career Summary

To obtain a position in upper management that will best utilize my knowledge, skills and abilities to meet the goals, vision and mission of the organization.

Timeline

'13

President and General Manager
SOUTHWEST DESIGNS, LLC

'11

Board Member
POJOAQUE VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

'09

'07

Vice President and Land Development Ma...
RANCHO VIEJO DE SANTA FE, INC.

'05

'03

Senior Project Manager / Project Engineer
LOUIS BERGER GROUP

'01

'99

Project Engineer
NM (PNM), WATER SERVICES DIVISION

'97

Project Engineer
CITY OF SANTA FE, PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

'95

Skills

LEARNING

INTERMEDIATE

ADVANCED

EXPERT

Budget

Scheduling

Engineer

Project En...

Constructi...

Keywords

Autocad Budget Budgets Change Orders
Civil Design Claims Claims Resolution Clients
Construction Management Contract
Administration Contract Management Contracts
Designing Waste Drainage Economic
Development Engineer Engineering
Management Excel Facilities Management
Finance Government Contract Improvement
Plan Industrial Buildings Land Development
Landscaping Maintenance Master Planning
Million Mitigation Municipal

Work Experience

http://www.beyond.com/JonpaulRomero

2/17/2016

BEYOND

Board Member

POJOAQUE VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT // FEB '09 - FEB '13

Job Title or Keywords

Join Now

Sign In

Hiring?

POjoaque Valley School District, February 2009 February 2013 Board Member [More](#)

President and General Manager

SOUTHWEST DESIGNS, LLC // JAN '07 - SEP '13

SouthWest Designs, LLC, 2007- 2013 President and General Manager Responsibilities [More](#)

Vice President and Land Development Manager

RANCHO VIEJO DE SANTA FE, INC // JAN '03 - JAN '07

Rancho Viejo de Santa Fe, Inc., 2003-2007 Vice President and Land Development [More](#)

Senior Project Manager / Project Engineer

LOUIS BERGER GROUP // JAN '99 - JAN '03

Louis Berger Group, 1999 -2003 Senior Project Manager / Project Engineer Responsibilities [More](#)

Project Engineer

NM (PNM), WATER SERVICES DIVISION // JAN '97 - JAN '99

Public Service Company of NM (PNM), Water Services Division, 1997-1999 Project Engineer [More](#)

Project Engineer

CITY OF SANTA FE, PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT // JAN '94 - JAN '97

City of Santa Fe, Public Works Department, 1994-1997 Project Engineer Responsibilities [More](#)

Education

Bachelor's Degree '94 // Project Development & Construction Management

UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO

JOB SEEKERS[Search for Jobs](#)[View Communities](#)[Job Seeker FAQ](#)**BLOG:** [The Confident Career](#)**EMPLOYERS**[Post a Job](#)[Search for Candidates](#)[Employer FAQ](#)**BLOG:** [Employment Metrix](#)**ABOUT**[Latest Infographics](#)[Become an Affiliate](#)[Advertise with Beyond](#)[!\[\]\(21226b58c700e5231ab98d27101bac58_img.jpg\) Follow us on Facebook](#)[!\[\]\(097cdd6c9c875b64d9b8c9a2409491c4_img.jpg\) Follow us on Twitter](#)

1060 First Ave, Suite 100

King of Prussia, PA 19406

610.878.2800

Contact Us[Terms of Service](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Careers](#)The **CAREERNETWORK**™

Beyond.com is a Registered Trademark of Beyond.com, Inc.
Beyond.com Career Network © 2001 - 2016 Beyond.com, Inc.
Beyond.com Patented Technology v 4.0.2344.17861



Edition--Journal North Date--08/22/1998 Page-- 6

College Board Seeks OK for Bond Sale

Jeannie Johnson Journal Staff Writer

The Santa Fe Community College board has started the ball rolling to sell the final \$3.7 million in bonds approved for sale in 1992.

Voters approved \$18.3 million in bond sales for the college to be used for such projects as the Early Childhood Development Center.

At its Thursday night meeting, the board gave administrators the go-ahead to seek permission from the state's Commission on Higher Education to sell the final \$3.7 million in bonds. Of that amount, \$1.7 million will be used for the visual arts center and \$2 million toward an instructional technology center.

Once those bonds have been sold, the college will have to consider going to voters in another bond election, said Domingo Sanchez, executive assistant to the president of the college. Sanchez also asked the board Thursday to approve maintaining the 1998 tax rate for future bond elections, including one being contemplated in two years.

"We're asking the board to consider another bond issue election in the amount of \$20 million in the year 2000," Sanchez said. "In discussions of the tax rate, we'd like to try and maintain it at a rate of 1.046 percent."

That means homeowners would pay approximately \$1 for every \$1,000 of assessed taxable value. For example, a home with a market value of \$120,000 would have an assessed value of about \$40,000. The homeowner would pay about \$40 a year to help the college pay off its debt from the bonds.

"We want to keep the tax rate stable so that we don't impose any other burdens on the taxpayers," said Harold Kious of Kious and Co., the financial adviser to the college.

The proposed \$20 million bond issue would help finance several capital projects on the college's wish list. They include:

- * Classrooms -- \$605,000
- * Administrative computing center -- \$500,000

- * Institutional technology building -- \$6 million
- * Center for continuing education -- \$5 million
- * Off-site instructional center -- \$2.5 million
- * Performing arts center -- \$9.5 million
- * Campus center expansion -- \$2.14 million.

In addition, Sanchez asked the board for permission to go to the Commission on Higher Education with a request to refinance the \$4 million in bonds the college currently is paying off. Kious told the board the college has a 6.24 percent interest rate on the bonds and it could be lowered to about 4.56 percent.

"That would result in a total savings of \$250,000 for the college," Kious said.



Edition--Journal North Date--07/12/1998 Page-- 1

Timing Of Shortfall Report Disputed

Journal Staff Report

Santa Fe County Commissioner Paul Duran said Saturday the \$3 million "bust" in the county's 1998-99 budget came to light weeks after former County Manager Domingo Sanchez resigned.

He disputed a statement Friday in which Sanchez said he had told commissioners during an executive session in June about financial problems that would occur in the budget. The commission was meeting in the closed session to discuss Sanchez's resignation.

The meeting in June has been in the spotlight recently over debate on whether it violated the Open Meetings Act.

Bob Johnson, executive director of the New Mexico Foundation for Open Government, said if commissioners discussed the budget, they should have announced that after the meeting.

The commissioners came out of the meeting and merely announced the resignation of Sanchez.

Duran said in a telephone interview Saturday that he did not hear about the \$3 million in projected overspending of the \$60.4 million budget until several days ago from County Manager David Wolf. He said Wolf approached him and told him about the shortfall.

County workers over-calculated by \$1.1 million the amount the county would collect in property taxes and neglected to set aside \$1.9 million to pay debt service on the new county jail, Commissioner Javier Gonzales had said earlier.

Duran said if he had known about the problems he would not have voted for Sanchez's resignation.

"I would have voted to fire him and not given him a damn penny. He was in charge of the budget," Duran said.

Sanchez couldn't be reached for comment Saturday.

Commission Chairman Marcos Trujillo also said commissioners didn't discuss budget problems in the closed door session.

"That's a total fallacy. We only discussed the severance package for Domingo. That was it," Trujillo

said. "Nothing was discussed regarding the \$3 million."

He said Wolf explained to him this week that county workers were putting in 120-hour work weeks during the time the errors were made.

Trujillo said the commission didn't violate the state's Open Meetings Act during the closed door session -- executive sessions are allowed only under a few exceptions of the act, including personnel and litigation.

"The only thing he (Sanchez) discussed was his resignation. That was the only thing that was discussed at that time. We would have never discussed it (financial problems)," Trujillo said.

However, Commissioner Gonzales said Friday that the commission had discussed the budget, and he was aware of the shortfall.



Edition--Journal North Date--07/11/1998 Page-- 1

Commission Might Have Broken Open Meeting Law

Dale Lezon Journal Staff Writer

Budget Discussed Behind Closed Doors

The Santa Fe County Commission may have violated the state's Open Meetings Act in June when it discussed discrepancies in the current county budget behind closed doors but did not announce it to the public, according to the director of a government watchdog group.

"It's a close call," said Bob Johnson, executive director of the New Mexico Foundation for Open Government. "They were obligated to come out and announce they had discussed (the budget)."

Two mistakes discovered in June led to \$3 million in projected overspending in the county's 1998-99 \$60.4 million budget. The commission approved the budget in May.

County workers over-calculated by \$1.1 million the amount the county would collect in property taxes and neglected to set aside \$1.9 million to pay debt service on the new county jail, said Commissioner Javier Gonzales.

The workers calculated the county would collect 100 percent of the property taxes due, but historically, only about 94 percent is collected, said Domingo Sanchez, former county manager.

Sanchez said he told the commission about the mistakes on June 9 in executive session during a regular commission meeting, but the commissioners did not announce the budget problems when they returned to the public part of their meeting, Gonzales said.

"It was a matter of proceeding cautiously to make sure Domingo's numbers were correct," Gonzales said.

Sanchez said Friday that he told the commissioners about the problems while they were discussing his resignation.

The commission appointed David Wolf to replace Sanchez.

Several issues, such as pending litigation and personnel matters, can be discussed in executive session, but budget matters cannot be handled behind closed doors, Johnson said.

"There's no exception for discussing budget matters in executive session," Johnson said.

The commission cannot use an executive session to secretly discuss matters of public concern, said Daniel Yolaham, former director of the Civil Division of the Attorney General's Office. That division is responsible for enforcing the Open Meetings Act.

"It seems to me that discussion of budget matters are required to be in public under the Open Meetings Act even if the budget comes up in a properly convened executive session on personnel matters," Yolaham said. "They (governments) don't get to hide a discussion of public policy in executive session called properly for some other purpose."

However, it is difficult to separate a discussion of budget matters from a discussion of personnel matters if the employee being discussed is in charge of the budget, said Denice Kulseth, county attorney.

Kulseth said she would have not let the commissioners have a discussion only on the budget in executive session, but cannot remember if the budget was discussed in connection with Sanchez's resignation during the June 9 closed-door meeting.

"I would not have allowed them to have a general discussion of the budget," Kulseth said Friday.

However, the commissioners told Wolf during the public portion of the meeting June 9 to review the budget and report to them at the commission meeting July 14, Gonzales said.

Wolf said he will present budget cuts, such as eliminating money set aside for the county's new administration building, at the meeting July 14 to make up for the latest budget discrepancies.

However, no cuts will be made in county services, such as law enforcement and emergency medical programs, Gonzales said.

Some departments, including the sheriff's department, may have to cut back on their budget requests, said Commissioner Richard Anaya. The sheriff department's approved budget includes money for several new patrol cars and some of that money might have to be reduced, Anaya said.

However, the commission has yet to decide what will be done to balance the budget, Anaya added.

The county's latest budget confusion comes on the heels of two other financial problems.

The county received a qualified audit for its 1996-1997 budget and the county Treasurer's Office overpaid property tax disbursements by about \$2 million.

Last spring, an independent auditor found several discrepancies, such as unreconciled balances in county funds, in the 1996-97 budget.

The county has corrected those problems and implemented accounting practices, such as assigning a staff accountant to balance each fund, Sanchez has said.

Computer problems are blamed for the accounting mishaps, county officials said.

The Treasurer's Office made faulty payments to schools and other governmental entities that receive county property tax revenue from 1996 to 1998.

Measures, such as manually balancing property tax revenue and payments, to correct the faulty payments have been implemented, said Philip Trujillo, county treasurer.

Computer problems are to blame for the faulty payments, Trujillo said.

PHOTO: b/w

SANCHEZ: Revealed discrepancies in executive session





Edition--Journal North Date--06/26/1998 Page-- 1

County Manager Overhauls Finance

Dale Lezon Journal Staff Writer

Restructured Dept. Gets New Director

Organizational and personnel shake-ups at Santa Fe County are designed to give the county's new top administrator more control over finances.

New County Manager David Wolf this week named Donna Gary director of the county's newly restructured finance department. Gary was formerly the county's policy analyst and economic-development expert.

Wolf named Thomas Montoya the department's deputy director.

Montoya was formerly director of the county's finance division, which was part of the administrative services department. But Wolf reorganized the county's administrative structure and made finance an autonomous department that will report directly to him.

Wolf's organizational changes come in the wake of a qualified audit of the county's 1996-97 budget.

Last March, an independent auditor released a report that detailed several problems, such as unreconciled balances, in that budget.

The qualified audit led to several weeks of nearly round-the-clock work by finance division employees to correct the problems. The organizational changes will help ensure that those problems don't happen again, Wolf said.

"We want an unqualified audit position by the end of this fiscal year," Wolf said.

An unqualified audit means an independent auditor finds no discrepancies when a budget is reviewed. A qualified audit may damage a governmental entity's financial standing.

Wolf said Montoya spearheaded the drive to correct the county's record-keeping problems. As deputy director for the new finance department, Montoya will have greater control over financial records. That will benefit the county, Wolf said.

"I want Thomas to be able to have his hands on details regarding the books," he said.

Gary has a master's of business administration degree and financial experience, Wolf said. She will handle policy issues related to finance, he said.

An independent auditor is currently reviewing the county's 1997-98 financial records and that audit is expected to be complete by late August or early September, Montoya said.

Wolf, the county's finance director from 1995 to 1997, took over as county manager Monday from Domingo Sanchez. Sanchez said he resigned effective June 19 to spend more time with his family.

Wolf also was director of the county's general services department and utilities division before the commission named him county manager earlier this month.

In other personnel changes this week:

- * Former Land Use Director Vincent "Corky" Ojinaga will become director of the capital projects/general services department.

"Corky has a strong background in land use to help with capital projects," Wolf said.

- * Diana Lucero, land use department deputy director, was named acting director of that department. A permanent director for land use will be named at a later date, Wolf said.

- * Estevan Lopez, former deputy director of the county's utilities division, was named director of utilities.

Also, the county's solid-waste program, which operates eight transfer stations, will be moved from the public works department to the capital projects/general services department, Wolf said.



Edition--Journal North Date--06/10/1998 Page-- 1

New County Manager Appointed

Dale Lezon Journal Staff Writer

Outgoing Official Gets Rest Of Contract in Lump Sum

Santa Fe County has a new county manager, and the outgoing manager has a hefty severance package.

After accepting the resignation of County Manager Domingo Sanchez on Tuesday, the County Commission appointed David Wolf, currently director of the county's general services department and utilities division, to the county's top administrative post.

Sanchez, county manager for about 31/2 years, said he had about six months left on his current contract, which pays him about \$74,000 a year. The commission agreed to pay Sanchez the remainder of his contract in one lump sum on June 19, the effective date of his resignation, said commissioner Richard Anaya.

The payment, which is expected to be approximately \$37,000, is severance pay, Commission Chairman Marcos Trujillo said.

"That's an agreement by the commission," Trujillo said. "We decided to give him severance pay for the length of his contract."

Wolf, 33, said other personnel changes could be made.

"We're going to be working through a transition and we'll need to coordinate that," Wolf said. "There probably will be some changes. We need to figure out who will replace me. There's definitely going to be some change."

However, Wolf said the county has excellent department heads and if any staff changes are made, the commission will review them.

"It would be in my best interest to work with the commission on those personnel changes," he said.

Commissioner Paul Duran said Sanchez had been a very strong county manager who attempted to closely control the county's administrative arm, but the county may not need that type of manager.

"He was the boss," Duran said. "It was his way or the highway. I'm looking for a gentler approach to dealing with employees and the commission."

"We need strong department heads with their own ideas and strong methods of management," Duran said. "They need to be their own persons."

The commission tapped Wolf as the county's top administrator for his knowledge of county issues, such as water, the county's new adult jail, and finance, Trujillo said.

"He will take the county in the appropriate direction," Trujillo said. "He brings expertise from the financial area. He's been involved in issues affecting Santa Fe County."

Wolf, a certified public accountant, was the county's finance director from 1995 to 1997. He became the utilities division director and general services department director in 1998. He earned a bachelor's degree in accounting from New Mexico State University in 1987.

"It's a tremendous amount of responsibility," Wolf said of his new job. "I'm excited about the opportunity and helping the commission."

Sanchez said he will work with Wolf during a 90-day transition period and then will be available to help the county if needed.

Rumors of Sanchez's resignation or firing spread through the county office building this spring following a qualified report from an independent auditor of the county's 1996-97 budget.

A qualified report means several problems, such as unreconciled balances in county funds, arose during the audit.

County staff blamed the problems in part on computer mishaps. However, Sanchez and his staff knew about the computer trouble and the unreconciled balances for more than a year before the audit and did not tell the commissioners about it, county public information officer Juan Rios said.

Duran said Sanchez did a good job, but the problems with the audit were a mistake.

"I think his mistake was to allow (the finance trouble) to get where it was," Duran said. "It should have been caught a long time ago."

Sanchez said after the audit results were released that he would implement accounting procedures, such as assigning an accountant to balance a particular account, to prevent future unreconciled balances in the county books.

Sanchez said he and his staff reconciled balances in the county funds.

Spending more time with his family, not the qualified audit, was the basis for his resignation, Sanchez said.

"I've worked a lot of hours (as county manager)," Sanchez said. "I'm sad to go, but my boys will enjoy having more time to spend with me."





Edition--Journal North Date--05/30/1998 Page-- 1

Candidate Denies Breaking Rules

Journal Staff Reports

Invitations Given At County Offices

Santa Fe County Commissioner Javier Gonzales insisted Friday he violated no rules when he went to county offices Thursday to pass out invitations to a barbecue.

Meanwhile, county spokesman Juan Rios said officials will not investigate the matter unless someone files a formal complaint with the county manager.

No one had done so as of 5 p.m. Friday afternoon, Rios said.

Gonzales, who is seeking election to a second term on the commission, said he spent about 10 minutes Thursday at the offices distributing barbecue invitations to employees.

He faces Democratic opponent Linda C de Baca Grill in Tuesday's primary. The winner is unopposed in the general election.

A copy of the invitation Gonzales faxed to the Journal on Friday reads "Come join Javier Gonzales, county commissioner, for food, mariachis, gunfights and fun." It makes no mention of his re-election campaign. He said the gunfights are not real.

Gonzales acknowledged that county policy prohibits campaigning on county property, but he said he asked for no votes while passing out the invitations and said the barbecue, which is scheduled for today at Rancho Alegre, is meant as a "thank you" for friends and members of the local county employees' union.

The barbecue will include a campaign fund-raising raffle, but Gonzales said he has instructed his campaign workers not to solicit county employees during the event.

And he said he asked for no support or votes at the offices on Friday either.

"There was no solicitation, no asking for support and no asking for votes," Gonzales said. "I've been really conscientious about avoiding any campaign activity on county property. It was my way of thanking them (county employees)."

Former Commissioner Grill said her opponent's method of giving thanks appeared to be an effort to

drum up votes.

"I was told no candidates would be allowed to campaign," in county offices, Grill said. "I feel if one candidate is allowed to campaign, the rest of the candidates should be given the same opportunity."

Rios said the issue won't spur action from County Manager Domingo Sanchez unless a formal complaint is lodged. He was unsure of the penalty for violating the policy.

"The allegation was reported in the media and it's merely an allegation," Rios said. "We have not received a formal complaint and until that time, it stands where it stands."

Sanchez could not be reached for comment Friday.

**Edition--Journal North Date--05/20/1998 Page-- 1****County Eyes Recovery Of \$2 Million**

Dale Lezon Journal Staff Writer

Treasurer Wants Money by Dec. 31

Santa Fe County hopes to recover more than \$2 million by the end of the year in property tax revenue it overpaid to local schools and other governmental agencies.

If the money is recovered by Dec. 31, the county's budget audit for 1998-1999 won't be affected, said Philip Trujillo, county treasurer.

"In order for the overpayments to appear in the audit for FY 1998-99 as only a footnote -- not a finding -- we need a repayment schedule with the different (agencies)," Trujillo said. "I want to try to have full repayment by Dec. 31."

Each year an independent auditor reviews the county's financial records and a "finding," or discovery of any discrepancies, may lead to a qualified audit.

A footnote does not adversely affect a county's financial standing, Trujillo said.

The county's 1996-1997 budget received a qualified report recently and Trujillo said he does not want the county to get another one.

The auditor discovered several unreconciled cash balances in the county's 41 funds, but those balances have been reconciled, county officials say.

The county collects property taxes and disburses monthly payments to several public entities. Santa Fe Community College, school districts in Santa Fe, Pojoaque and Moriarty, the city of Santa Fe and the county are among the entities which receive the disbursements.

However, since July 1996, the county has handed out payments inconsistent with what it was supposed to, according to county officials.

A computer accounting program was to blame for the faulty payments, Trujillo said. The program may not have made adjustments for overpaid property taxes, delinquent taxes or duplicate tax payments, he added.

Despite the faulty payments, all county money is accounted for, Trujillo said.

To correct the faulty payments, the county will either pay out more or less than the normal disbursements to the entities each month through December, Trujillo said.

Trujillo said he will contact each agency and explain his repayment plan.

"I hope to have a proposed repayment schedule by Friday," Trujillo said. "I will present it to Domingo Sanchez (county manager) and the (County) Commission but the schedule is my decision and hopefully it will be one that Santa Fe Community College and Santa Fe Public Schools can live with and agree upon."

The college and Santa Fe Schools received the largest overpayments, but the other agencies which were overpaid or underpaid can have their payments corrected in May, Trujillo said.

The college was overpaid \$602,693, according to county accounting documents. It needs several months in order to repay that amount, said John Pacheco, college president.

"We've had a number of meetings with (Trujillo) and the county manager and we've talked with them (about the) need to spread out payments," Pacheco said. "That (repayment) has a direct impact on operations of the college and spreading it out has been our goal."

Some of the repayments are very small and will not have much impact on some of the agencies, Trujillo said.

Pojoaque Valley Schools was overpaid \$28,527 for its debt service, according to county accounting documents, but will be able to repay it without hardship, said Art Blea, Pojoaque superintendent.

That money goes directly into a bank account, Blea said.

"We should have enough money to service our debt when they come due in August 1998," Blea said. "There is sufficient money there to pay our debt. It (the county payment) goes into a bank until we have a principal payment or an interest payment and those come once a year."

To make sure the county pays agencies the proper monthly amounts, the treasurer's staff will manually determine how much each should be paid, Trujillo said.

**Edition--Journal North Date--05/13/1998 Page-- 1****Faulty Payments Revealed**

Dale Lezon Journal Staff Writer

County Treasurer Blames Problem on Computers

The Santa Fe County Treasurer's Office may have overpaid school districts and other governmental agencies more than \$1 million during the last two years, county officials said Tuesday.

Some underpayment also occurred, Santa Fe County commissioners heard at a meeting Tuesday.

"What in the world is going on that we overpay property tax (disbursements)?" said Commissioner Javier Gonzales. "Who makes sure property tax is not overpaid?"

County Manager Domingo Sanchez, who reported the overpayments and underpayments to the commission, said the county treasurer's office is responsible for those payments. The county manager's staff, which includes the county Finance Department, has no jurisdiction over them, he said.

County Treasurer Philip Trujillo said in a telephone interview Tuesday night some of the faulty payments were small and blames the problem on his office's computer system.

"This whole problem is with the computer," Trujillo said.

He will send a letter to each entity to explain the payment problems and correct the payment schedules this month, Trujillo added.

"I'm sure we'll be able to clear it all up in May," Trujillo said.

However, the county lost interest income for nearly two years because of the overpayments, said Gonzales.

"This can't be tolerated," Gonzales said. "I want to make sure this (faulty payment) does not happen again."

The money which was overpaid should have remained in county bank accounts and gained interest, Gonzales said.

The overpayments have occurred since June or July of 1996, Sanchez said.

The county collects property taxes and the treasurer's office distributes that money monthly to several entities. Those include public school districts -- Santa Fe Public Schools, Pojoaque Valley Schools, Moriarty Public Schools and Espanola Public Schools.

Others receiving property tax disbursements impacted by the over- and underpayments were Santa Fe and Espanola municipal operations, Santa Fe Community College and the county's own operations.

For example, in January the community college was paid \$422,309, but should have received \$161,995. That means it was overpaid \$260,313, county accounting documents state.

Also the college should have received \$147,776 in March, but was paid \$165,259 -- an overpayment of \$17,482, according to the documents.

Sanchez will present the commission with an investment policy that may stop the faulty payments, he said. The policy will include accounting measures, such as internal controls and consolidation of the county's 41 bank accounts, to help monitor payments.

Sanchez said the faulty payments contributed to an independent auditor's qualified report given to the county's budget for the fiscal year ending in June 1997.

That means the auditor found problems, such as unreconciled account balances.

The county accounts have been reconciled and an independent auditor will check the balances to make sure they are correct, Sanchez said.



Section--Opinion Edition--Journal North Date--04/29/1998 Page-- 4

County Audit raises questions

EDITORIALS

Santa Fe County's financial reports got a less-than-perfect rating at a recent audit. The private firm contracted to review the books, as required by state law, found problems including unreconciled cash balances in the 1996-97 budget.

As part of a lengthy and complicated report, the audit included a memorandum of accounting procedures and internal controls in which the auditor noted that: "Insufficient resources had been allotted to the accounting, reconciliation and review process throughout the year."

Even worse, the questions and concerns included in the 113-page audit report caught the county commission -- the folks elected to keep an eye on our money -- by surprise. Although the staff and county manager had known about the problems as early as last July, the commission didn't learn of the trouble until March. That angered at least one commissioner enough for him to threaten that heads would roll on the county staff.

The county's public information officer explained that at least some of the trouble was caused by the contemporary world's most popular scapegoat -- the computer. (The county's top administrator, County Manager Domingo Sanchez, has been publicly silent.) As commissioner Joe Grine pointed out, computers only are as useful as the people who use them. And no one, particularly politicians, has much use for unexpected bad news.

One of the county commission's main obligations is to make sure that the administration spends our tax money wisely. One of the county manager's central responsibilities is to be an information conduit between his staff and the commissioners. The commissioners need timely and accurate information to do their job. If the county finance department and the county treasurer's office have trouble speaking the same language, it's up to Sanchez to help them do their jobs better. Without good audits -- involving computers or not -- the county manager can't give the commissioners the news that county funds have been correctly spent.

At their recent meeting, the commissioners gave the county staff two weeks to correct the problems and to suggest what action to take so the troubles don't arise again. One solution would be to treat this public money the same way conscientious taxpayers handle their own funds, with a balance in each different account every month. The commissioners need to demand a better accounting of public money and they need to keep the issue in the spotlight until they receive assurance that the problem is fixed.

Edition--Journal North Date--10/16/1998 Page-- 1

SFCC President's House Busts Budget

Jeannie Johnson Journal Staff Writer

Board Won't Pay For Landscaping Request

The Santa Fe Community College governing board on Thursday refused to shell out the \$6,500 needed to complete landscaping at a home occupied by the school's president.

The board did, however, approve \$3,500 to install a security system in the president's home.

The home was purchased by the college's foundation about two years ago to provide housing for the president. College officials last year came to the board asking for \$19,500 to complete the landscaping, install a sprinkler system, build a back fence, provide a landing for the back door and install a security system.

At that time, board members set a budget of \$13,000 to complete that work. However, as of Thursday, that money had almost all been spent but the landscaping remained incomplete, the irrigation system wasn't finished and the security system hadn't been purchased or installed.

Domingo Sanchez, the assistant to college president John Pacheco, asked the board Thursday for \$3,500 for a security system and \$6,500 to complete the landscaping and irrigation system. That request pushed the total requested to \$23,000.

"The total expended so far is just about \$13,000," Sanchez said. "We have about \$55 left. We need to know whether we should stop here or go forward with the \$6,500 and complete the landscaping."

Pacheco said the project exceeded the anticipated budget because "a serious amount of stabilizing had to be done to the lot because drainage was going into the neighbor's yard."

Board member Linda Siegle said a budget was set and staff should have adhered to it.

"As I recall, the board discussed at length the amount we wanted to spend," she said. "I thought we agreed to \$13,000, and (the contractors) would do it in that amount."

All of the landscaping and the security system should have been included in the original mortgage the foundation obtained to pay for the house, said board member Gloria Lopez.

"You shouldn't have to be coming back to us like this," she said. "However, security is a real issue for me, and I think we should pay for a security system. Eventually, we're going to have to complete the landscaping, and I'd like a plan in place as to when we will complete it."

In other board news, a proposal for a faculty salary survey was approved in the amount of \$30,000. The board also voted to go forward with the final sale of \$3.7 million in bonds approved for sale in 1992.